

## **United States European Command**

## REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM V. CROSS II Director of Operations Directorate

Rear Admiral William V. Cross, II is assigned as the Director of Operations (J3) for the United States European Command.

Admiral Cross graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in June 1967. His initial assignment was with Fighter Squadron ONE SIXTY ONE where he flew the F-4 PHANTOM in over 175 combat missions in Vietnam. He was selected for test pilot training in 1972 and subsequently served as a test pilot instructor.

In 1976 he was nominated by the Navy as one of the first candidates for the space shuttle astronaut program. Subsequent tours of duty included Fighter Squadrons THIRTY TWO and THIRTY ONE, the Naval Air Systems Command as engineering manager for the F-14 program and USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71) as Executive Officer.



Admiral Cross has commanded Fighter Squadron THIRTY ONE, the amphibious assault ship USS INCHON (LPH 12), the nuclear aircraft carrier USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER (CVN 69), CARRIER GROUP SIX and the AMERICA BATTLE GROUP. He also served as the Director for Plans and Policy (J5) at the United States Transportation Command.

Admiral Cross has earned a Bachelor of Science degree in naval engineering and a Master of Arts degree in management. He is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College and is qualified as a weapons system acquisition manager and nuclear propulsion engineer. He has piloted more than 30 types of fixed wing aircraft and 8 types of helicopters while accumulating over 850 carrier landings and 4000 flight hours.

Admiral Cross has received the Defense Superior Service Medal, three Legion of Merit awards, three awards of the Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal (8 strike/flight device), the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V" device, and several unit and campaign medals.

He is married to the former Katherine Louise Brownlowe of Clearwater, Florida.